ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Artifical Intelligence Staff

FROM:		EXTENSION	NO.		STAT
Director of Training and Education *1026 CofC*			**DATE** *28 November 1986*		STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)	
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED			
1. DDA 7D24 HQS				FYI - ☐ *at Carnegie-Mellon*	STAT
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FORM 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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Artificial Intelligence Staff
MISG/OIT
7:17 PM, Monday, 17 November 1986

Note To: STAT

From:

Subject: Update on Carnegie-Mellon

The purpose of this note is to update you on Carnegie-Mellon...i.e., what's
happening with it. [   ] and I visited Carnegie-Mellon last week to   STAT
discuss the one year's training in AI, per your (Ed) guidance. As an upfront
summary comment, the visit was <u>quite</u> successful and everything looks to be in
good shape.

[   ] and I met with three professors from the Computer Science Department,   STAT
including the Department Chairman, a Dr. Habermann. All three profs were quite
receptive to the idea of a special program of study, and they are flexible in
terms of custom-tailoring it to meet Agency needs. I might also add that all
three seemed to be "friendly" towards the Agency, so to speak. Here's some
relevant bullets from our discussions:

- I would work in the expert systems area, and a faculty advisor has been
tentatively identified. This looks to be particularly interesting as this would
plug me in as a working member of John McDermott's overall organization.
McDermott is well-known throughout the AI community as one of the top two or
three bonafide heavyweights in the field. (Among other things, he is the
creator of DEC's well-known XCON expert system.)

- I would also take a series of courses to broaden my background in the
underlying theory of AI. The Department Chairman suggested several CMU courses
which I made a note of and will plan to make a part of my program.

- They were all three insistent that I not start until the Fall Semester, '87.
CMU runs a series of familiarization/orientation/standardization courses then
(and only then) which all new students must take. (Actualy, the "Fall" starts
in August...for planning purposes, this means I would be leaving around 15
August or so.)

- Dr. Habermann suggested I visit CMU again for a day sometime in the Spring.
The purpose would be to do some advance planning with my faculty advisor. I'll
thus plan on doing that.

- CMU impressed me in a positive way as as having a rather unique (for a
university) approach in that they emphasize the practical/hands-on as well as
and in coordination with the theoretical. In line with this, the Chairman
recommended I take a LISP course prior to my arrival so I will plan to do that
as well.

- As it turns out, Dr. Habermann was previously the Acting Director of CMU's

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Software Engineering Institute (SEI), which is a DOD-sponsored activity designed to improve overall software productivity. While SEI is technically separate from the Computer Science Department, there is clearly a close and incestuous relationship between them. The Chairman offered to broker introductions to whomever I'd like to meet within SEI. I expressed strong interest in doing so at the appropriate time.

- One of the professors I talked to is doing some interesting work in "knowledge acquisition", which is a key element in building a successful expert system. Coincidentally, I had met and talked with him several months ago at an ORD-sponsored AI forum in Rosslyn. This little coincidence didn't hurt in the least.

- By way of setting up a program, what seems to be a logical progression would be to spend 6 months or so in the expert systems area, followed by 3 months in the knowledge acquisition area and then to wrap it up with 3 months in the SEI area. (I think in reality I'd end up starting off in the expert systems area and then, after I got to see things first hand, adjust the program as necessary...I want to be sure to keep the "practical" emphasis and not get sucked into a purely academic mode.)

- The question of money was brought up by the Department Chairman pretty much as you (Ed) had outlined it to me back in our intitial meeting on CMU. Dr. Habermann stated that the true cost of educating a graduate student in CS at CMU is approximately $33,000 per year. When corporations or the Government sends them someone on a special program such as this, CMU's policy is to charge the true costs at a minimum and it's customary to provide a fellowship as well. The initial cost estimate given to [   ] over the phone was $75k. The   STAT
understanding we left with after talking in person was $35k "fellowship" funds, plus the payment of normal tuition of approx $10,600.

- On the question of funds, I thought it best to get the dollars nailed down in writing so that there are no misunderstandings come next Fall. I told Dr. Habermann that the next step would be for the Agency to send Carnegie a letter of understanding. After I returned, I then met with [   ] to discuss this.   STAT
He has kindly agreed to take this one for action, and to coordinate with OGC and OL.

- With all of the foregoing in mind, I don't see any major problems which would foul this up...everything really seems to have fallen into place. I'm most excited about the program and, as I've said before, I feel most honored to have been selected to represent the Agency at Carnegie-Mellon. Be that as it may, I have a personal item to resolve that relates to my wife and some of the factors that affect her by virtue of this whole matter...i.e., an employee couple type thing. I don't want to get into the nitty-gritty here, but FYI I plan to get on Gary's calendar (in your absence) to discuss this to see what the Agency might be able to work out in her case (i.e., she has some concerns about what happens to her recently renewed career as a DI Intelligence Assistant if she goes to Pittsburgh with me, while being simultaneously unenthusiastic about the impact on the family if I were to go to Pittsburgh by myself.) I'm hopeful this can be   STAT
resolved in some reasonable way, so I'm optimistically plugging ahead. --[   ]

STAT

CC: [   ]

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